

House Concurrent Resolution No. 13

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4427L.011

1 **Whereas**, HR 3113, the TANF Reauthorization Act of 2001, was introduced in the
2 United States House of Representatives on October 12, 2001, which would reform the
3 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to make it clear that the program's principal
4 focus is the long-term reduction of poverty rather than a short-term immediate reduction in the
5 welfare rolls; and
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7 **Whereas**, HR 3113 would also make it clear that postsecondary education is a
8 work activity under the TANF program by providing access to postsecondary education for
9 TANF recipients as a permissible work activity; and
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11 **Whereas**, in the United States, education has always been a route to economic self-
12 sufficiency and social mobility; and
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14 **Whereas**, in the twenty-first century, at least one year of postsecondary education
15 will become increasingly more essential for all workers; and
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17 **Whereas**, TANF does not currently extend our nation's commitment to educational
18 opportunity to persons living in poverty with their children, but who are ready, willing, and able
19 to benefit from postsecondary education; and
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21 **Whereas**, data from several studies has demonstrated that the additional earning
22 capacity that a postsecondary education provides can make the difference between economic
23 self-sufficiency and continued poverty for many TANF recipients; and
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25 **Whereas**, among families headed by African American, Latino, and Caucasian
26 women, the poverty rate declines from fifty-one, forty-one, and twenty-two percent to twenty-
27 one, eighteen and one-half, and thirteen percent, respectively, with at least one year of
28 postsecondary education; and
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30 **Whereas**, further data has found that postsecondary education not only increases
31 incomes, it also improves self-esteem, increases children's education ambitions, including
32 aspiring to enter postsecondary education themselves, and has a dramatic impact on quality of
33 life; and
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35 **Whereas**, now more than ever TANF recipients need postsecondary education to
36 obtain the knowledge and skills required to compete for jobs and enable them to lift themselves
37 and their children out of poverty in the long-term; and
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39 **Whereas**, without some postsecondary education, most women who leave welfare
40 for employment will earn wages that place them far below the federal poverty level, even after
41 five years of employment; and
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43 **Whereas**, allowing TANF recipients to attend postsecondary education, even for
44 a short time, will improve their earning potential significantly, with the average person who
45 attends a community college, even without graduating, earning approximately ten percent more
46 than those persons who do not attend postsecondary education at all; and
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48 **Whereas**, women who receive TANF assistance clearly appreciate the importance
49 and role of postsecondary education in moving them out of poverty to long-term economic self-
50 sufficiency; and
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52 **Whereas**, as of November 1999, at least nineteen states had considered or enacted
53 strategies to support recipient's efforts to achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency through
54 the pursuit of postsecondary education:
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56 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
57 Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring
58 therein, support HR 3113, the TANF Reauthorization Act of 2001; and
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60 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly urges Missouri's
61 Congressional delegation to support the passage of HR 3113, the TANF Reauthorization Act of
62 2001; and
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64 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
65 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President
66 of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President
67 of the United States Senate, and each member of Missouri's Congressional delegation.